Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Amended herein) A method for processing a transport stream, the method comprising:

(a) parsing the transport stream to derive multiple elementary substreams, each elementary substream including a received media access control (MAC) address; and

(b) comparing in hardware the received MAC address of a particular elementary substream against a plurality of stored MAC addresses, **each stored MAC address having (i) a concatenated disable bit, and (ii) at least one independent compare mask assigned to it that masks a portion of the MAC address bits from the comparison when the disable bit is inactivated;**

(c) comparing any unmasked bits of the received MAC address against corresponding unmasked bits of the comparison MAC address;

(d) comparing the disable bit with each of the bits in the compare mask to determine if the mask has been disabled for the remaining bits of the MAC addresses;

(e) comparing the remaining bits of the received MAC address with the corresponding bits of the comparison MAC address when the mask has been disabled; and

(f) repeating steps (c)-(e) for each of the received MAC addresses until a match is achieved between each received MAC address and a particular comparison MAC address.

2. (Original) The method according to claim , the method further comprising:

(a) parsing the transport stream to derive multiple data streams including associated program identifiers, each such data stream being associated with a plurality of the multiple elementary substreams;

(b) using the associated program identifiers and MAC addresses to determine corresponding transfer locations in a host memory; and

(c) performing direct memory access transfers of the multiple data streams and multiple elementary substreams to the corresponding transfer locations in the host memory.

3. (Original) The method according to claim , the method further comprising transferring the multiple data streams and multiple elementary substreams to an end user system.

4. (Original) The method according to claim wherein the end user system comprises an audio-visual system and the step of transferring the multiple data streams and multiple elementary substreams is performed through an audio-visual interface.

5. (Original) The method according to claim wherein the end user system comprises a networked computer system and the step of transferring the multiple data streams and multiple elementary substreams is performed through a network interface.

6. (Original) The method according to claim wherein the end user system further comprises a world wide web browser.

7. (Original) The method according to claim , the method further comprising the step of filtering out unwanted elementary substreams associated with a particular data stream.

Claims 8-9 (Canceled).

10. (Amended herein) The method according to claim **18** wherein the received MAC address comprises 48 bits and each of the stored MAC addresses comprises 48 bits.

11. (Amended herein) A system for receiving and processing a transport stream, the system comprising:

(a) a receiver configured to derive multiple elementary substreams, each elementary substream including a received media access control (MAC) address **having a concatenated disable bit**; ~~and~~

(b) **at least one independent stored compare mask assigned to each stored MAC address that masks a portion of the MAC address bits from the comparison when the disable bit is inactivated;**

(c) a hardware comparison engine within the receiver, the hardware comparison engine being configured to ~~compare the received MAC address of a particular data stream against a plurality of stored MAC addresses.~~

(i) compare any unmasked bits of the received MAC address against corresponding unmasked bits of the comparison MAC address;

(ii) compare the disable bit with each of the bits in the compare mask to determine if the mask has been disabled for the remaining bits of the MAC addresses;

(iii) compare the remaining bits of the received MAC address with the corresponding bits of the comparison MAC address when the mask has been disabled; and

(iv) repeat steps (i)-(iii) for each of the received MAC addresses until a match is achieved between each received MAC address and a particular comparison MAC address.

12. (Original) The system according to claim , the system further comprising a direct memory access (DMA) transfer engine within the receiver, wherein the receiver is further configured to derive multiple data steams and associated program identifiers from the transport stream, each such data stream being associated with a plurality of the multiple elementary substreams, and wherein the DMA transfer engine is configure to initiate DMA transfers of the multiple data streams and multiple elementary substreams to the corresponding transfer locations in a host memory.

13. (Original) The system according to claim , the system further comprising an interface connected to the receiver configured to transfer the multiple data streams and multiple elementary substreams to an end user system.

14. (Original) The system according to claim wherein the end user system comprises an audio-visual system and interface comprises an audio-visual interface.

15. (Original) The system according to claim wherein the end user system comprises a networked computer system and the interface comprises a network interface.

16. (Original) The system according to claim wherein the end user system further comprises a world wide web browser.

17. (Original) The system according to claim wherein the hardware comparison engine is further configured to filter out unwanted elementary substreams associated with a particular data stream.

Claims 18-19 (Canceled).

20. (Original) The system according to claim wherein the received MAC address comprises 48 bits and each of the stored MAC addresses comprises 48 bits.

21. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein the comparison of unmasked bits in step (d) is implemented with an XNOR gate.

22. (New) The method according to claim 1 wherein step (d) is implemented with an AND gate by comparing the disable bit with each of the masked bits and controlled with an OR gate, which restricts the comparison of the masked bits to instances where the disable bit has been activated.